

DRIVE
HALTS
DEAD

There Is Virtually a Lull Along the Entire Front, Where for a Week and More Desperate Fighting Has Taken Place—Germans Rest Near French Inner Defenses

QUIET MAY MEAN
SIMPLY PREPARATION

French Despatches Profess Satisfaction with the Situation North of Verdun Where the French Have Strongly Fortified Positions—Italy May Declare War on Germany

The German offensive against Verdun, which had brought the crown prince's armies up to the inner line of French defenses, has been halted there, according to today's official statement from Paris. The lull which yesterday gave signs of setting in now extends along virtually the entire front, where the desperate struggles of the past week and more have been going on.

Unofficial commentators in the entente capitals admit themselves at a loss to determine yet whether the German drive has spent its force or whether the pause is simply a prelude to a renewal before the hard-won positions at Verdun or elsewhere on the front.

Paris dispatches declare the situation north of Verdun is satisfactory to the French, who have strongly fortified positions. No mention of fighting at Verdun is made in the Berlin official statement. To-day marks the opening of the new German submarine campaign in which armed merchantmen are to be considered as warships and treated accordingly.

The Italian Parliament, which is re-assembling to-day, is expected to take up the question of declaration of war by Italy against all the foes of the entente powers. Italy never has declared war on Germany.

To-day was the last day for voluntary enlistment in Great Britain. Compulsion hereafter will be effective.

Paris, March 1.—There is nothing of importance to report in the region north of Verdun or in the Woerthe district, according to the announcement of the war office this afternoon.

EVERY SOUL LOST
ON BRITISH SHIP
IN MEDITERRANEAN

The Thornaby Left Sunderland, England, on January 19, for Palermo, Sicily—All of Her Crew Killed or Drowned.

London, March 1.—The British steamship Thornaby is reported to have been sunk and all the members of her crew were killed or drowned.

The Thornaby, which was a ship of 1,782 tons, sailed on January 19 from Sunderland, England, for Palermo, Sicily. The dispatch fails to reveal whether the Thornaby was sunk before the new submarine order of the central powers was effective or whether the vessel was armed.

U-BOATS SOWING MINES

Is Belief Expressed by Kansas Man, Survivor of Maloja.

London, March 1.—That German submarines have been sowing mines off Dover was the belief expressed yesterday by Ralph Foster of Kansas and other survivors of the Maloja disaster, including some of the officers of the ship. The fact that a number of disasters have occurred in the neighborhood of Dover during the past two Sundays is considered in some quarters in London as possible evidence that German submarines, knowing that a number of boats clear for foreign ports on that day, have taken advantage of that fact to ship in as near the coast as possible in the night time and discharge cargoes of explosives.

Mr. Foster had a thrilling experience. He was afloat in the icy water and on upturned boats an hour before he was rescued.

WANT MILLION NAMES.

Campaign for National Security League Started Last Night.

New York, March 1.—A campaign to obtain a million members was opened by the National Security league last night with two mass meetings here at which men prominent in public life urged the necessity for immediate military and naval preparedness. Joseph H. Choate, former ambassador to Great Britain, pre-

sided at a meeting at Carnegie hall, while at the same hour Oscar S. Strauss called to order another assembly at the Century theatre.

Robert Bacon, former ambassador to France, advocated obligatory military service and respect for international law, in an address at the Carnegie hall meeting. Mayor John P. Mitchell before leaving for St. Louis at the head of a large delegation of prominent New York men to attend the mayors' conference on national defense, spoke briefly, pleading for universal military service.

Mr. Strauss said the spirit of the preparedness movement was not to urge war, but to make preparations to command peace.

George W. Wickersham, former United States attorney general, defined preparedness as "a word made in Germany, understood in the British navy and just beginning to be understood by the American people."

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, sent a letter in which he declared "there must be not only the will, but the power to establish a definite liberty and justice if they are to become real forces in our national life."

Bishop P. J. Hayes, speaking as the representative of Cardinal Farley, expressed the hope that the movement for preparedness would extend throughout the country.

UNITED STATES
WILL NOT TAKE
FURTHER ACTION

Until the Administration Is Certain That Congress Stands Back of the President—Germany's Latest Assurances Fairly Satisfactory.

Washington, D. C., March 1.—Germany's latest assurances on the conduct of submarine warfare, presented Monday by Ambassador Bernstorff, was not so broad as the United States desires but it was indicated that no further steps would be taken by this government until the administration is certain the action will not be embarrassed in Congress.

At an early conference to-day President Wilson and the administration leaders made plans for bringing the armed ship agitation in Congress to an end immediately, with a demonstration of unity to convince Germany that the American Congress stands behind the foreign policy of the government. Confident that they can beat the anti-administration resolutions by a heavy vote, the president and the leaders framed plans to bring them out first on the floor of the House.

President Wilson made it clear that he did not want a vote of resolution, expressing support of his conduct and as the result a vote probably will be taken on some resolution warning Americans off armed ships.

CANNOT TAKE STAND
WITHOUT CONGRESS

President Wilson Writes that the United States Must Show Unity to Germany—Writes Letter to Representative Pou.

Washington, D. C., March 1.—President Wilson decided yesterday that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while disunion in Congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a show down on the pending proposals to war Americans off merchant ships of the European belligerents.

Making clear that he considers the president, and not Congress, charged with the conduct of foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Pou, acting chairman of the House rules committee, asking him to provide parliamentary means for bringing the agitation into the open on the floor of the House for full discussion and a vote.

The president's letter to Mr. Pou, the signal that the administration was ready to give Germany a demonstration of unity follows:

"My Dear Mr. Pou: "Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the committee on rules, is absent in Texas, I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country which can, I believe, be handled under the rules of the House, only by that committee."

"The report that there are divided councils in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks. I therefore feel justified in asking that your committee will permit me to urge an early vote upon the resolution with regard to travel on armed merchantmen which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them and that all doubts and conjectures may be swept away and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings."

"The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of executive initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am taking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the House, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration."

"Cordially and sincerely yours," "Woodrow Wilson."

AN INCENDIARY FIRE

Flames Started on Roof of Shed and Burned Rapidly.

St. Albans, March 1.—The house on the A. H. Foster farm on the Sheldon road at Green's Corner was burned yesterday and the loss was about as there was no insurance. It is believed that the fire was of incendiary origin. The flames broke out on the roof of a shed and had gained great headway when discovered by the inmates of the house.

There have been several incendiary fires in that vicinity. Two years ago a large barn on the Foster place was burned and a few days later a barn on Joseph Erwin's farm, a short distance away, was burned. An investigation produced no results apparently.

BIG STATION
AT MONTREAL
DESTROYED

Bonaventure Structure Belonging to Grand Trunk Railway Co. Burned, the Loss Being Estimated at \$300,000—It Was Also Used by Central Vermont

FIREMEN SAY LOSS
WAS DUE TO PLOT

But Montreal Police Do Not Claim the Same Cause, Asserting That the Outbreak of Flames Was Due to Crossed Wires—Canadian Government Interested

Montreal, March 1.—Bonaventure station of the Grand Trunk Railway company was destroyed by fire to-day with a loss of \$300,000. The police declared that a preliminary investigation indicated that the fire was due to crossed wires, but the fire department officials say they have reason to believe that the building was destroyed as the result of an enemy plot. In addition to being used by the Grand Trunk Railway company, the station was used by the Canadian government railways and the Delaware & Hudson and Central Vermont railways.

Howard G. Kelley, vice-president of the Grand Trunk, in a statement, declared that the fire was caused by an accidental short circuit.

CENTRAL VERMONT AFFECTED. Is Compelled to Make Up Its Trains at St. Henry.

St. Albans, March 1.—Because of the fire in the Bonaventure station in Montreal to-day the Central Vermont Railway company has been obliged to make up its trains at St. Henry, and all the trains from the north are running several minutes late. Telephone communication with Montreal has been almost wholly cut off.

AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS.

Lorenzo Sears Was Formerly Professor at University of Vermont.

Providence, R. I., March 1.—Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Sears, formerly professor of rhetoric in the University of Vermont and holder of professorships in Brown university from 1890 to 1906, when he retired, died yesterday at his home, 163 Butler avenue, at the age of 77 years.

He was born in Somerville, Mass., April 18, 1838, the son of Nathaniel and Cordelia Morton Sears. He was graduated from Yale university in 1861 and from the General Theological seminary in New York three years later. In his later years Trinity college bestowed the honor of A. M. Litt. D. on him.

After holding pastorates in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, from 1864 to 1885, he assumed the chair of professor of rhetoric and English literature in the University of Vermont for three years; then, for the next 16 years, he held professorships in rhetoric and American literature at Brown university.

He was author of several books on American literature, notably, "The History of Oratory," "The Occasional Address," "Its Composition and Literature," "Principles and Methods of Literary Criticism," "American Literature in the Colonial and National Periods," "Seven Laws of Literary Composition," and "The Makers of American Literature." He also wrote an historical introduction to "The Library of Modern Eloquence," and was the author of many pamphlets and reviews.

FRENCH ARTILLERY EFFECTIVE.

According to Official Report, Several German Movements Were Stopped.

Paris, March 1.—The official communication issued last night by the war office reads:

"Between Soissons and Rheims our artillery bombarded important points behind the enemy's front. "In Champagne our batteries shattered German organizations in the region of Hill 193. To the west of Meissons the Champagne the Germans exploded a mine, the crater of which we occupied."

"In the region of Verdun the bombardment continued on the north front with less intensity than on the preceding days. No infantry action was reported in the course of the day. The Germans entrenched themselves on the slopes north of the Cote du Poivre, the first ridge of which is occupied by our advanced elements."

"We carried out a violent fire on Samogneux, where an enemy battalion had assembled. "At various points on our front in the Woerthe our artillery fire prevented attacks in the course of preparation for being carried out."

"In the Vosges there has been great artillery activity in the region of Senones and the Ban de Sapt. To the east of Senones, a counter attack by us drove the enemy from some sections of trenches which he had penetrated during the morning."

The Belgian official communication says: "Greater activity has been played by the artillery especially in the region of Dixmude. In the course of the afternoon two German balloons before our front were shot down by our batteries and fell into the sea opposite La Panne, the other near Coudekerque. The aerostats were made prisoners."

YOUNG COUPLE ARRESTED.

Alleged to Have Obtained Morphine and Cocaine Contrary to Law.

Burlington, March 1.—A young couple of many aliases were locked up in the Chittenden county jail last night on the serious charge of having obtained morphine and cocaine contrary to the laws of the United States and having forged a physician's name to a prescription. Their arrest followed quick action on the part of Fred Whittemore, deputy collector of internal revenue, who learned of their game which they were carrying on in this city yesterday afternoon and, following them up, arrested them at Shanley's drug store in Wigooski late last night.

The couple, who may have come here from New York, where they are wanted for the same offense, had a very ingenious method of beating the law. They had printed regular physician's prescription pads, such as are used by physicians to prescribe narcotics under the law, which recently went into effect. These blanks read as follows: "Edward L. Payson, M. D., 264 Church street, Middlebury; telephone number—; registered number 4861." The last number is that which identifies every registered physician who has obtained the right to prescribe narcotics. These false prescriptions were presented at a drug store to obtain the "dose." The couple had many aliases under which they obtained their small prescriptions.

The suspicions of Deputy Collector Whittemore were aroused yesterday afternoon, when a clerk from Henderson's drug store called at his office at the federal building to obtain a list of the physicians of this state who are registered to prescribe narcotics. Mr. Whittemore accompanied the clerk back to the store and, after seeing the prescription, decided that it was a forgery. To verify his suspicions he telephoned to Middlebury, where he found there was no Church street and no Dr. Payson.

The head office of the New Hampshire district, which is the district made up of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, is at Portsmouth and when Mr. Whittemore got into connection with that office he found that there was no such registration number as 4861. He then placed the matter before United States District Attorney V. A. Billard, who made out warrants for both the man and woman.

SWEEP INTO POLICE NET.

Mrs. Antonio Labrana Accused of Liquor Dealing with Ora Kellogg.

Merchants and bankers were not the only ones to nibble at the bait dangled by Ora Kellogg, who is alleged to have confessed to extensive forging operations in Barre last week, if the allegations made by the police in the case of State vs. Mrs. Antonio Labrana of 27 Granite street are not disproven. Yesterday Chief Sinclair, Officer Harry Gamble and Officer David Henderson raided Mrs. Labrana's apartments and seized a considerable quantity of intoxicating liquor. Soon after 3 o'clock the woman was arrested on a charge of selling illegally and arraigned before Magistrate H. W. Scott. The respondent pleaded not guilty and was admitted to bail in the sum of \$500. A hearing was set to-day for Wednesday, March 8, and a jury will be drawn next Monday.

The police allege that Kellogg, who is at present in the county jail, having failed to furnish bail of \$1,000 when arraigned Monday, went to Mrs. Labrana's house last week and bargained with her for beer and whiskey. His visit was made at a time when he had made or contemplated making visits to a number of local stores, where his largesse in the matter of distributing had checks caused a considerable stir. It is said that Kellogg scribbled off a check for \$5 on the People's National bank, the check being drawn on the order of Murray Cutler and passed it over to Mrs. Labrana. The woman, according to the police, dug into her store of real money to the extent of \$4.35 and passed it over as change to the alleged customer, Kellogg. When Kellogg came back from Canada Monday night he is said to have included a story of his dealings with Mrs. Labrana while making a clean breast of his check operations.

Alleged contraband seized at Labrana's included a barrel partly full of cream ale, a barrel of beer, a bottle of beer, two quarts of gin, two quarts of port wine and a quart each of whiskey and brandy.

PERANTONI—COLOMBO.

Marriage Took Place at the City Clerk's Office.

At the office of the city clerk this afternoon at 12:30 o'clock, Miss Josephine Colombo of 21 Elliston street and John Perantoni of 33 Third street were married by Justice of the Peace James Mackay. Only a few intimate friends witnessed the ceremony. The bride was attended by Miss Lena Calogini and E. Colombo acted as groomsmen. Both the bride and groom are well known in the Italian community. Mr. Perantoni is employed in Barre as a teamman. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus hall on North Main street, friends of the couple will tender them a wedding reception. An Italian dinner will be one of the features of the affair and afterward there will be dancing.

SURPLUS EQUALS CAPITAL.

Barre Savings Bank & Trust Co. Stockholders Get Good Report.

The Barre Savings Bank & Trust company has just issued its 23d annual statement, showing the condition of its affairs at the close of business on Feb. 29. The bank has paid its regular dividend of eight per cent. to its stockholders and has carried \$5,000.00 to its surplus fund, making a total of \$50,000.00 as a reserve surplus, an amount which is now equal to its capital stock. The same board of directors will serve during the coming year, and the officers look forward to another year of prosperity in the business which will be handled in Barre and vicinity.

No Opinion on Voters' Eligibility.

No opinion has been handed down by the Vermont supreme court as yet on the eligibility of voters at the spring election March 7 on state referendums.

PAYS \$1,250,000
TO SETTLE SUIT

John L. Billard Squares Up with New Haven R. R. on Stock Deal

MADE \$25 A SHARE
ON TRANSACTION

Bought and Sold 119,000 Boston & Maine Railroad Shares

New York, March 1.—The suit brought by the present administration of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad to recover from John L. Billard of Meriden, Conn., the profits alleged to be the New Haven railroad in a deal in which the New Haven purchased shares of the Boston & Maine stock seven years ago, has been settled, it was announced at the offices of the railroad to-day. Billard has paid the New Haven railroad \$1,250,000, it was stated.

Among the other defendants in the Billard suit, who share in the payment of the settlement money, were former President Charles S. Mellen and Edward D. Robbins, former general counsel of the New Haven. Billard, who is a Meriden coal dealer, purchased 119,000 shares of the Boston & Maine stock from the New Haven in 1908 for \$125 per share and sold them back a year later at \$150. It was alleged that Billard was acting in the interests of the New Haven, which was forbidden by the Massachusetts laws to own Boston & Maine stock, but later a legislative act permitted the acquisition.

The suit was brought in the Connecticut courts to recover \$2,700,000, and the settlement is, therefore, a compromise.

JURORS CONFIRMED
BY ALDERMEN

Board Also Granted Use of Opera House to Associated Churches for Mass Meeting Sunday Evening, March 5.

Grand and petit jurors were appointed and confirmed at the regular meeting of the board of aldermen last evening, the session being the last aldermanic gathering before election and, by the way, one of the shortest of the year. Alderman Keast presided and all members were present with the exception of Alderman J. A. Healy, who has been bothered considerably of late with a knee injury. On the motion of Alderman Glysson, the following jury appointments were confirmed through the medium of a single ballot cast by the clerk: Grand jurors, John H. Jones and H. C. Leonard; petit jurors, B. P. White, George Cooper, George H. Emery, J. K. Anderson, W. W. Russell, J. E. Gregory, J. J. Cayuse, George W. Parks, James Field, Alexander Dowers, C. N. Kenyon, and H. N. Cheney.

A communication from the associated churches asked for the use of the opera house on the evening of Sunday, March 5, for the purpose of a mass meeting in which local issues pertaining to the legal sale of intoxicating liquors are to be discussed. On the motion of Alderman Rossi the request was granted with the condition that the church committee make the proper arrangements with the lessees of the theatre. Plans for election day insofar as they concern the preparation of the voting booths, polling places etc., were discussed and it was decided to retain the ward 1 polling quarters at the Church street school.

Overseer W. J. Clapp submitted the following financial statement for the poor department in January: Overdraft, \$18.88; appropriation from the city council, \$750; disbursements as per vouchers, \$681.84; balance, \$49.28; total, \$750; net expenses of the department, \$681.84. The report was accepted.

Warrants were approved for payment in the following order: Street department payroll, \$114.41; street, surface sewer and sidewalk accounts; water department payroll, \$30.40; fire department payroll, \$80.50; police department payroll, \$100.84; G. A. Bemis, \$14, services as janitor; N. D. Phelps Co., \$290.83; sewer pipes.

DEATH WAS SUDDEN.

Prof. Fred J. Whittecher of South Ryegate Died To-day.

South Ryegate, March 1.—This village was shocked this morning by the news of the death of Prof. Fred J. Whittecher, who was stopping at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. John R. McAllister and who was conducting two very successful singing schools, one in this village and the other in Groton. Heart trouble is supposed to have been the direct cause of his death.

Mr. Whittecher was a native of Newbury, being the eldest son of Abner J. and Ella Whittecher. He was 45 years old. He had been in California for several years but came home from there last spring in poor health. He had gained, however, and had done considerable business in his profession. He leaves his parents and one brother and one sister.

FUNERAL OF ROBERT GRAY.

Was Held at 105 North Seminary Street Tuesday Afternoon.

Funeral services for Robert Gray, lately of Aberdeen, Scotland, who passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Sloan of Cutler Corner, Saturday after a brief illness, were held at the home of another daughter, Mrs. Peter Gordon, 105 North Seminary street Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Edgar Crossland, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was the officiating clergyman, and the bearers were as follows: J. Alexander, James Sloan, J. Sloan, Jr., Peter Gordon, George Sloan and A. Lawton. Interment was made in Hope cemetery.

NO AGREEMENTS;
CUTTERS ARE OUT
IN MANY PLACESWESTERLY REPORTED
TO HAVE SETTLED

In Eight Granite Cities and Towns There Is Complete Suspension of Work, According to Information Received in Barre.

Granite industries in Quincy, Mass., Bethel and South Ryegate, Rockport, Mass., Milford, Mass., Keene, N. H., Fitzwilliam, N. H., and Stony Creek, Conn., are at a standstill to-day, according to information which reached The Times this afternoon. In every center mentioned bills of varying length expired last night and efforts to reach a common basis on which new agreements could be put in force appear to have been futile. At Westerly, R. I., an agreement was reached last night for a four-year bill at \$4 per day with no restrictions on the size of the tools to be used. The Times' informant intimates that the tool issue is not paramount in any of the granite centers where negotiations are in progress to-day. Rather, the cutters and manufacturers have split on the question of how long the new agreements shall be operative, and many of the cutters are said to be contending for a four-year bill to expire when Barre's bill expires in 1920.

Quincy granite cutters went out this morning. At a meeting of the cutters last night the union committee reported that the manufacturers had offered them \$4 per day for a four-year agreement. The wage scale appeared to be satisfactory, but the branch turned down the offer after declaring in favor of an agreement whose lease of life will be either three or five years. It is understood that English speaking cutters opposed the four-year bill and that the offer of the manufacturers was received with favor by the so-called foreign speaking element. The tool issue appears to have settled itself, inasmuch as the Westerly cutters did not stand out finally for a one-inch limit.

Rockport, Milford, Keene, Fitzwilliam and Stony Creek granitecutters are said to be contending for a three- or five-year bill, while the manufacturers in those centers are holding out for the four-year agreement. Of Bethel, it is said that the cutters and manufacturers will probably reach an agreement shortly. The report that Hardwick cutters and manufacturers were in complete accord and had reached a settlement is modified somewhat by a "second report" which has it that Hardwick manufacturers signed the bill after the Woodbury Granite Co., large employers of labor, had withdrawn from the association. Neither report has been verified.

THE QUINCY DEADLOCK.

One Prediction is That There Will Be Long Suspension.

The Quincy Mass., Ledger of last night had the following summary of the granite situation in Quincy:

"The Italian members of the granite cutters branch and the manufacturers are strongly favoring a four year agreement, it is said, while the polishers and another portion of the cutters want a five year agreement."

"The four year agreement would expire in 1920, the same year the Barre, Vt. agreement expires."

"This fact is an argument against it in the opinion of some of the cutters. They say that the granite business would be demoralized for years to come should both Quincy and Barre workmen go on a strike at the same time because of failure to reach settlements with their respective associations."

"No such effect would follow, according to the Italian members of the local branch. They say they are committed to short term agreements, however, that the Italian people would like to see all agreements between manufacturers and cutters throughout the country expire on the same day so that if need be a mighty protest could be made."

"It is to avoid such a possibility that the five year term is favored, according to some members of the branch."

"There is a feeling among cutters to-day that the future will not be as quiet as pictured a week ago."

"We are going to have one of the biggest strikes Quincy has ever seen," is the way one cutter viewed the situation."

"Another states that the reason the short term agreement is not favored is that the leaders of the union believe a nation-wide strike would disrupt the organization."

SPORTSMEN IN BURLINGTON.

Gathered Under Auspices of Vermont Fish and Game League.

Burlington, March 1.—Vermont sportsmen gathered here yesterday afternoon and evening to attend conferences preliminary to the third annual sportsmen's convention under auspices of the Vermont Fish and Game League.

During the afternoon John W. Titcomb, state fish and game commissioner, addressed the state wardens, and an attorney answered questions as to interpreting the fish and game laws.

FARMERS MEET MARCH 9.

To Decide Whether There Will Be a Washington County Farm Agent.

A meeting of the Washington County Farmers' association will be held at Howland hall, Barre, March 9, beginning at 1:30 p. m., at which it is expected that definite arrangements will be made as to whether a county agent will be secured or not this spring. Thomas Bradlee of the College of Agriculture, University of Vermont, will be present and will address the meeting. It is important that all farmers be present if possible.

Deadlock in Negotiations at Time of Expiration of the Old Agreements Caused Quite General Suspension of Work Outside of the Barre Granite Industry

QUINCY SUSPENSION
MOST IMPORTANT

Bethel Granite Manufacturing Industry Shut Down, No Word Having Come from the Woodbury Granite Co.—Business Conditions Were Already Quiet There

The opening of the month of March brought about a suspension of work in nearly all the New England granite centers outside of the Barre granite belt, as the old agreements in those places expired with the last day of February and new agreements were not signed by that time. The chief point concerned is Quincy, Mass., which is, next to Barre, the largest granite center of New England. At Quincy all the men engaged in the manufacturing end of the industry went on strike this morning. Another important granite cutting point in Massachusetts that was closed tight was Rockport, on Cape Ann.

In Vermont, Bethel and Hardwick were the chief places involved in the disagreement. The Woodbury Granite Co., the largest single concern, had not come to an agreement with its employees. Many granite workers in both of these places had been out of work for some time.

It is understood that the Hardwick suspension applies merely to the plant of the Woodbury Granite company.

Quincy, Mass., March 1.—Twenty-five hundred employees in the Quincy granite industry refused to continue work to-day because of the failure to reach an agreement with the manufacturers in the matter of a new wage schedule. The old schedule expired last night.

The workmen involved are the granite cutters, polishers and tool sharpeners. Their refusal to work threw out the teamsters, machinists and apprentices, making a total of 2,500.

The old wage schedule provided for \$3.75 per day and ran for three years. The men asked a minimum of \$4 for a three- or five-year agreement. It was stated that the workmen refused to accept a four-year agreement, because its expiration would come at the same time as that under which the Barre, Vt., cutters are working.

The vote to go on strike was taken at a meeting of all the branches here last night. A wage scale of 50 cents an hour and a working day of eight hours had been agreed upon, but the men refused to submit to a less term than five years, the manufacturers desiring to terminate the agreement at the end of the fourth year to coincide with the termination of the agreement between the workers and manufacturers of Barre, Vt.

Both sides seem determined to hold out. The strike, if continued for any length of time, will tie up all the granite work in Quincy, one of the city's largest industries. Many of the manufacturers already have accepted orders for Memorial day work, which they will be unable to fill if the strike continues long.

Rockport, Mass., March 1.—Granite workers on Cape Ann numbering about 1,000, struck to-day for a new bill of wages. The old bill expired last night and no new agreement had been reached with the manufacturers either for its renewal or for a new schedule.

Westerly, R. I., March 1.—A four-year agreement between manufacturers and granitecutters, polishers and tool sharpeners was signed to-day, making the minimum wages \$4 per day.

Bethel, March 1.—The labor agreement under which the cutters at the Woodbury Granite company's sheds had operated for the last four years expired last night and in the absence of any reply from the company to the demands made three months ago, the few men who had been employed did not appear at the sheds to-day. General Manager Clifford of the company was out of town last evening and no word was forthcoming from the company.

The fact is, so far as known, that the men had practically completed all the work in sight, and many rumors of a large contract just ahead have not been substantiated. A considerable number of the cutters have found employment elsewhere, some in other trades temporarily, while others are resting, as they say they do not object to doing for a few weeks in the winter season. Only a few families have left town, even of the men who are working elsewhere.

South Ryegate, March 1.—The local granite cutters were all out this morning, with no knowledge of when a settlement will be reached.